

Proposal for New Program
University of South Carolina

Title of Program:
Doctor of Philosophy
Major: Criminology and Criminal Justice

July 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew A. Sorensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Sorensen" clearly legible.

Andrew A. Sorensen, President

I. Classification

Name of Proposed Program:
Criminology and Criminal Justice

Academic Unit Involved:
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Carolina, Columbia Campus (51102)

Designation, Type, and Level of Degree:
Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Criminology and Criminal Justice

New Program: The Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Criminology and Criminal Justice will be a new degree program. The degree will require a minimum of 36 credit hours (beyond the M.A. degree), including 12 hours of dissertation preparation.

Proposed Date of Implementation: January 2008

II. Program Justification

A. Purpose and Objectives

1. General Objectives: Crime inflicts enormous social, psychological, and economic damage to members of our society. The academic discipline of criminology and criminal justice emphasizes the scientific study of criminal behavior, law, criminal justice policies, and societal responses to the crime problem. The larger scientific community clearly recognizes the importance of the issue. Over the last fifty years, a number of higher education institutions across the nation began to offer undergraduate and professional training in the field. A recent review of Science magazine identified 32 publications related to criminology in that outlet since 1990 – an average of nearly 2.5 articles per year (Sherman 2003:2; Proposal to Create a Department of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania). Over the past three decades, the development of academic programs leading to the Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice has been a high priority at a number of leading research universities throughout the United States. The goal of these programs – and the USC criminology and criminal justice graduate program – is to prepare graduate students to conduct criminological research and to help policy makers, criminal justice officials, social service agencies, and students understand and apply the knowledge gained from that research.

At the time of this proposal, nine of the 62 members of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) offer a program of study leading to a Ph.D. with a major in criminology and/or criminal justice: (1) University of California – Irvine; (2) University of Florida; (3) Indiana University; (4) University of Maryland; (5) Michigan State University; (6) University of Pennsylvania; (7) The Pennsylvania State University; (8) Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; and (9) University of

Toronto. Doctoral programs in criminology also have been implemented at prominent international institutions such as the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Melbourne, and Stockholm (Sherman 2003:3).

The University of South Carolina already has a well-established M.A. degree program in Criminology and Criminal Justice. In 1976, the University began to offer undergraduate training to students interested in careers in criminal justice, as well as a master's degree (Master's in Criminal Justice) aimed primarily at professionals in the field who wished to develop their understanding and skills. In recent years, the department has assembled the strongest research faculty in the region and achieved national stature for its excellent research and scholarship. In a forthcoming article on scholarly productivity in the top journals in the field (Steiner & Schwartz, in press), the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at USC was ranked fifth in the nation in publications per faculty member and climbed to third when publications were weighted by first author. This is a significant achievement considering that USC was the only institution among the top five that does not have a Ph.D. program. Despite the department's academic excellence and high rate of scholarly productivity, its ability to compete for extramural research grants and retain its faculty – both critical components of its mission – is limited by the absence of a Ph.D. program. The faculty has been recruited to this University and this department with the expectation that a Ph.D. program will be implemented. Faculty members applying for extramural research funds within the framework of a doctoral program have a major advantage over other competitors for increasingly scarce grant funds. In order to maintain and further develop the high quality of the department, it will be necessary to provide its faculty with the tools necessary to compete successfully with other doctoral institutions in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Moreover, considering the prominence of the program's location at one of the state flagship research institutions and its highly regarded state and national reputation, the University of South Carolina program is uniquely qualified to meet the need for doctoral education in criminology and criminal justice in the state and the region.

2. Areas of Faculty Research Focus: One of the strengths of the Department of Criminology and Criminal justice is that it is located in a strong and diverse College of Arts and Sciences and that it works actively with other professional programs within the University. Criminology and criminal justice is an interdisciplinary field. Scholars in the department, therefore, conduct empirical research on a wide range of topics and collaborate with scholars in a number of other disciplines. The department has several important strengths which will be emphasized in a Ph.D. program: (1) law enforcement policy; (2) law and society; (3) treatment and corrections program evaluation; (4) juvenile delinquency and justice; and (5) advanced quantitative methods. A common thread running through all of these strengths is the department's emphasis on the application of experimental methods to the study of crime, criminology, and criminal justice.

a. Law Enforcement Policy. One of the hallmark features of American law enforcement is the amount of discretion placed in the hands of police officers.

There is a long tradition of criminal justice research that attempts to understand factors contributing to police officer decision making and to develop “best practice” policies for law enforcement agencies to follow in contacts between officers and citizens. In the last two-three decades a considerable amount of evaluation research has been developed to advance knowledge in this area. In addition, law enforcement agencies are increasingly turning to social scientists for guidance in using computer-based spatial and quantitative analysis tools for understanding how police activities and calls for police service are distributed in space and time. Three faculty members in the department have made nationally recognized research contributions to both sets of issues.

b. Law and Society. Law and society researchers study the use of law as an instrument of social control and the origins and application of laws designed to control social behavior. This research area encompasses a number of topics of interest to departmental faculty. Examples of published work by faculty members in this area include the application of sentencing practices between different age and gender groups, racial and geographic disparities in the administration of the death penalty, perceptions of procedural fairness by offenders who come into contact with law enforcement, the erosion of traditional barriers between juvenile and adult offenders through increased use of legislative and judicial waiver of jurisdiction from juvenile to adult court, and the experiences of crime victims in contact with offenders and the criminal justice system. Independent of the Ph.D. program, the department is exploring ways of strengthening its relationship with the University of South Carolina School of Law which could culminate in the offering of a joint J.D./Ph.D. degree program. In addition, discussions with officials at the National Advocacy Center are underway to increase collaboration between federal prosecutors and research faculty in the department. The faculty exhibit broad strength in the study of issues related to law and society. In fact, six of the twelve current faculty members have published multiple articles on topics related to law and society in prominent peer reviewed journals within the past three years.

c. Correctional and Substance Abuse Treatment Program Effectiveness. Several members of the faculty have assumed a prominent national role in evaluating the effectiveness of treatment programs for substance abuse and other forms of correctional programming. In this area, the department has made great strides in formalizing a working relationship with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (DPPPS). This year, the DPPPS will fund a full-time graduate research assistant to collaborate with department faculty members on a study of tools available to the South Carolina parole board for informing prison release decisions. The department has five faculty members who have been involved in detailed recidivism studies that have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Three faculty members have published results of studies on the effectiveness of different types of drug abuse treatment programs. One faculty member is playing a leading national role in developing methodologies for

estimating treatment effects in observational studies where randomized assignment to treatment and control groups is not possible – an increasingly common problem facing corrections officials who need information to guide choices about institutional and community-based treatment programs. In addition, the University's School of Public Health, Department of Psychology, and the Center for Child and Family Studies are engaged in research on substance abuse treatment. Each of these units has scholars and programs with which faculty and students from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice can collaborate.

d. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency. Research has documented a strong relationship between age and risk of involvement in crime. Studies routinely show that crime involvement peaks in the late teenage and early adulthood years. This raises important questions about the causes of juvenile delinquency, policies that might effectively reduce the problem, and criminal justice system processing of juvenile offenders. The faculty have a strong interest in this area; eight department faculty members have published multiple peer-reviewed articles dealing with issues related to juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice within the past three years.

e. Advanced Quantitative Research Methods. The department is nationally known for the expertise of its faculty in the development and application of cutting-edge analytical tools for the study of crime and criminal justice policy. Department faculty regularly publish in top peer-reviewed journals on methods for longitudinal data analysis, treatment effect estimation in observational studies, instrumental variable methods, recidivism studies with survival and event history methodologies, interrupted time series analysis, the development of inferences in studies with partially missing data, and models with censored and limited dependent variables.

B. Need for the Program

1. Overview: No accredited research institution between Florida and Maryland or west to Arkansas has developed a Ph.D. degree program in criminology and criminal justice. The absence of such a program cannot be attributed either to a well-informed consensus about the appropriate measures to address the crime problem or the lack of a significant crime problem. Indeed, by any objective measure, South Carolina and the southeastern region consistently rank among the most violent, unsafe, and unhealthy areas of the United States.

In 2002, for example, the state of South Carolina had the highest violent crime rate of any state in the country. North Carolina and Georgia ranked 19th and 20th, respectively (U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, Report #21). In 2001, South Carolina led the nation in the rate at which a man kills a woman with a firearm (Violence Policy Center, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2001 Homicide Data, September 2003). South Carolina also ranked in the worst ten states in

the United States in 2001 on several key indicators of child well-being including: (1) the rate of deaths among 15-19 year olds by accident, homicide, or suicide; (2) birth rates among females between the ages of 15 and 17; (3) infant mortality rate; and (4) the percent of low birth weight babies. For the 2001 data, South Carolina ranked 46th in the nation in quality of life for children. It is well documented that criminal offending and victimization tend to cluster within younger age groups. It would, therefore, be logical to calculate arrest rates for juveniles in South Carolina and compare them to other states. But, in South Carolina, it is not possible to know how many juveniles are arrested. According to the latest edition of the U.S. Department of Justice report "Juvenile Arrests 2001," only four states have lower rates of reporting coverage for juvenile arrest rates than South Carolina (Howard N. Snyder, 2003. "Juvenile Arrests 2001." Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, p. 11). Nevertheless, relying on the 30% of agencies who did report their data to the Justice Department, only seven states had higher arrest rates for violent index offenses among juveniles than South Carolina.

Sherman (2003:3) reports that nearly 100 people are awarded Ph.D. degrees in criminology and/or criminal justice "each year by thirty universities in North America" and that "the demand for tenure-track criminology faculty exceeds the supply competing with growing demand for criminologists by national governments and their research institutes from London to Seoul." This movement reflects a commitment to advancing knowledge about the causes of crime and strategies for productively responding to the crime problem. The Ph.D. degree program in criminology and criminal justice will serve three main purposes at the University of South Carolina: (1) it will make a significant contribution to training and educating the next generation of criminology scholars and researchers – particularly in the southeastern United States; (2) it will increase the department's capacity for collaborating with criminal justice agencies to formulate workable and scientifically rigorous responses to the crime problem in South Carolina and the larger Southeastern U.S. region; and (3) it will provide critical support to a research-oriented faculty that will increase research output and strengthen the faculty's competitive position for extramural research funds.

Despite the pressing needs faced by criminal justice agencies in the state and the region, those agencies are consistently being asked to maintain and, in some cases, increase productivity during an era of reductions in operating budgets. This situation leads to three important facts: (1) to maximize the effectiveness of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention efforts, it is necessary to increase understanding of community, family, situational, developmental, and individual-level risk factors for criminal behavior; (2) policymakers, agencies, and scientific researchers must develop information resources and systems that will maximize policy effectiveness; and (3) researchers must, whenever possible, credibly compete for research grants to provide financial support to cover the increasing costs of social science research. When implemented, the proposed Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice will play a key role in addressing these challenges. The proposed Ph.D. program will increase the faculty's capacity to train the next generation of researchers and scholars, compete for extramural research grant

support, and conduct scientific research that will advance knowledge and benefit the larger community.

2. Student Demand and Interest: There is a great deal of student interest in and demand for a Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice at the University of South Carolina. During the 2004-2005 academic year, the department fielded over 25 requests for information about a Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice. Moreover, there is a stable history of strong demand for graduate education in criminal justice at the University of South Carolina. Although the number of master's degrees awarded decreased during the past three years (especially 2003-2004 due to greater selectivity in admitting and graduating students), the program granted an average of 27 Master's degrees per year for the last ten years. Over the last two years seven graduates have gone on to Ph.D. programs.

In 2003, the department transitioned from the MCJ (masters of criminal justice) degree to the traditional M.A. degree in criminology and criminal justice. At the same time, and in anticipation of a Ph.D. program, the department substantially increased the quality of its graduate students. The department now competes nationally for master's students, a majority of whom intend on pursuing a Ph.D. upon graduation. Among the current cohort of M.A. students who anticipate entering a Ph.D. program, all have expressed a desire to remain at USC for their doctoral work if possible.

Historically, a significant number of students have chosen to study criminology and criminal justice at the graduate level at the University of South Carolina. The demands of the Ph.D program and a relatively small faculty, the department mandates a very selective program. The Department expects to enroll no more than 6 new students per year for the first five years of the program's existence. Because of the absence of other programs in the region and the quality of the department's faculty, it expects the demand for these seats to far exceed the number of qualified applicants.

Given the quality of the department's current full-time funded M.A. students (undergraduate grade point average = 3.51; Graduate Record Examination quantitative + verbal average = 1166; undergraduate institutions represented: University of Virginia, Clemson University, Wake Forest University, James Madison University, North Carolina State University, University of Florida, and University of South Carolina), the department anticipates no difficulty admitting and enrolling 4-6 highly qualified students per year in the Ph.D. program.

3. Demand for Services: Criminal justice officials in South Carolina and the greater Southeastern U.S. are anxious to work closely with faculty and researchers in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina. In recent years, research projects have been conducted in cooperation with officials from Richland County, Lexington County, the Carolinas Institute for Community Policing (formerly in Charlotte NC, now in Greenville SC), the state Department of Juvenile

Justice, the state Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, the Miami-Dade Police Department, the Savannah, Georgia Police Department, and the Columbia Police Department (forthcoming), the Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, D.C.), the Richmond, Virginia Police Department, and the Prince George's County, Maryland Police Department. Some of these projects have been conducted with extramural research grants while others have been conducted as community service with donated faculty time. Moreover, these projects have occurred during a period of great change and transition in the University of South Carolina's criminology and criminal justice department (formerly the College of Criminal Justice).

In an effort to build on this success, the newly constituted Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has established a Center for the Management of Risk Behaviors. The Center's mission is to collaborate with state and regional agencies, policy-makers, and criminal justice officials, as well as scholars in other disciplines, to advance scientific knowledge about crime control and criminal justice policy. The Center will accomplish this objective primarily through the acquisition of extramural, competitive research grants to the University of South Carolina. The Center can more effectively realize its potential if the University implements a Ph.D. program whose students can work with and support affiliated faculty research efforts.

4. Anticipated Employment Opportunities for Graduates: The primary goal of the department's Ph.D. program will be to place its graduates at leading, nationally recognized research and teaching universities, as well as in leadership positions in public service, criminal justice policy, and research agencies. The employment outlook for well-trained Ph.D. criminology and criminal justice graduates is bright. Indeed, on the University of South Carolina Columbia campus, criminology and criminal justice is the fifth largest undergraduate major. This pattern is not unique to the University of South Carolina (see e.g., Timothy J. Flanagan, 2000, "Liberal Education and the Criminal Justice Major," Journal of Criminal Justice Education, 11:1-13). Because of the rapid expansion of criminology and criminal justice programs at colleges, universities, and research organizations throughout the United States, Ph.D. graduates have had no difficulty finding employment. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. A recent Journal of Criminal Justice Education article summarizing national patterns in criminology and/or criminal justice faculty recruitment during the late 1990's showed a healthy job market for criminology/criminal justice researchers and educators (314 positions in 1995-1996; 180 positions in 1996-1997; 167 positions in 1997-1998, and 219 positions in 1998-1999). The authors also found that the majority of faculty vacancies advertised during this period were assistant professor positions (58%) and that the southeast region of the United States was among the most heavily advertised job markets for criminologists (Alejandro del Carmen and O. Elmer Polk, 2001, "Faculty Employment in Criminology and Criminal Justice: Trends and Patterns." Journal of Criminal Justice Education, 12:1-17).

Although there are no doctoral criminology and criminal justice programs in the Carolinas, a number of public colleges and universities offer undergraduate and graduate

degree programs including: Winthrop University, Lander University, South Carolina State University, the Citadel, East Carolina University, Western Carolina University, North Carolina State University, Appalachian State University, North Carolina Central University, and the University of North Carolina branches at Charlotte, Wilmington, and Pembroke. Research Triangle Institute, a large non-profit research organization with a strong criminal justice research focus, is located in Cary, North Carolina. Finally, a large number of private institutions, community colleges, and technical schools throughout the region have criminal justice programs or criminal justice concentrations in other social science departments in which graduates of the USC program would be qualified to serve as faculty. Although employment opportunities for program graduates are likely to be abundant in the Carolinas, the primary goal of the USC program will be to place its graduates at leading national research and teaching institutions with criminology and criminal justice programs.

5. Evidence from Leading Criminology and Criminal Justice Programs: In anticipation of this proposal, four leading universities offering the Ph.D. in criminology or criminal justice were contacted and asked to provide data for the last three years for which data were available on (1) Ph.D. applications received, (2) Ph.D. students admitted, (3) Ph.D. graduates, and (4) post-graduation employment. The numerical information received from the University of Maryland, Michigan State University, the University of Cincinnati, and the State University of New York at Albany is summarized in the table below.

	No. of Applications			No. of Admittances		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Univ. Maryland	55	62	65	17	22	38
Mich. State Univ.	19	24	50	7	6	8
Univ. Cincinnati	66	67	81	14	20	20
SUNY Albany	60	58	--	11	10	--

As the data from this table indicate, the leading programs receive far more applicants than they admit. This is consistent with the trend identified by Professor Sherman in his external review – criminology and criminal justice is a growing field with strong student demand at all levels, including the Ph.D. Job placements of Ph.D. graduates from these institutions over the last three years include: Marquette, University of North Carolina Charlotte, Northeastern University, University of South Florida, Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Justice Research and Statistics Association, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Florida State University, University of Nebraska, University of Wales, Cardiff, and the Maryland Sentencing Commission, among many others. With the growth and maturation of criminology and criminal justice as an academic discipline, many new university programs are being created each year, which creates a greater demand for new Ph.D. graduates than the existing Ph.D. programs can

supply. As a result, the department anticipates strong demand for slots in a new Ph.D. program and ample job opportunities for new Ph.D. graduates.

C. Centrality of the Program to USC's Mission

1. Overview: The University of South Carolina's mission statement emphasizes teaching, research, and service as central to the mission of the institution. The Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice will contribute to each of these areas, as well as to meeting the stated goals of the College of Arts and Sciences.

2. Teaching: At its core, the Ph.D. degree program will provide a rigorous course of instruction and examination ensuring that program graduates will be prepared to teach and conduct research at peer and aspirant research and teaching institutions. Students in the program will be integrated into the instruction of undergraduate students, adding breadth and strength to the undergraduate program while providing direct training in teaching for Ph.D. students. The program will require a minimum of 24 hours of graduate level coursework (beyond the master's level), demonstration of competence on a written comprehensive examination, and a minimum of 12 hours of dissertation preparation credits. The Ph.D. dissertation must present the background, methods, and results of an original scholarly research project.

3. Research: A key component of any high quality research oriented department is an active Ph.D. program. Ph.D. students play a key role in supporting faculty efforts on scientific research projects and in the process develop the skills needed to be the next generation of research scholars. Doctoral students play a critical role in research in a number of important ways. From their involvement in data collection, to collaboration with faculty members in data analysis and writing, to their own independent research on dissertation projects, Ph.D. students play an essential role in advancing scientific knowledge at research universities. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is an active research department. Department faculty members have worked closely with master's level students for years, and these students also play an important role in the department. But a Ph.D. program will significantly elevate the department's research productivity by strengthening its competitive position when applying for extramural research funds, providing personnel stability for long-term research projects, and increasing the department's research output. The department can only go so far in achieving its research mission absent a Ph.D. program. Excellent research faculty need access to Ph.D. students. Without such students, the faculty are limited in their scholarship and in their ability to compete for extramural research funds. In sum, the critical mass that has been achieved in recent years will require the support of a Ph.D. program if it is to be maintained.

4. Service: One of the department's major emphases is to develop close working relationships with criminal justice and other social service agencies in South Carolina and the region. The department fully intends to increase its capacity for service to the state and the greater southeast region by relying on faculty-supervised work of Ph.D. students. In recent years, opportunities for collaboration with agencies have increased significantly while the department's capacity to respond to these opportunities has been limited by an absence of advanced graduate students. Recently, for example, the need for graduate students to work on various state and local agency-related research projects has exceeded the number of full-time M.A. students available for those projects. The department views the establishment of a Ph.D. program as the single factor that would make the most difference in its capacity to provide meaningful and ongoing service to state and regional agencies.

5. Meeting Goals of the College of Arts and Sciences

Goal 1: The College of Arts and Sciences enriches the educational experience for all undergraduate students in the University of South Carolina. The department can support the achievement of this goal in several important ways. First, the faculty believe that the best way to improve students' educational experiences is to recruit and retain faculty who are excellent teachers and researchers. Second, the faculty believe that the quality of students' educational experiences at this University will be enhanced by the availability of a Ph.D. program. Under current circumstances, the department's top graduate students who wish to continue to develop new knowledge in the vital areas of criminology and criminal justice are forced to seek advanced graduate education in other fields or they are forced to leave the University and the state to seek advanced graduate education at another school.

Goal 2: The College of Arts and Sciences fosters research, scholarship and creative activity by recruiting, retaining and supporting faculty members who are or will be nationally and internationally known as leaders in their fields. The department currently has twelve tenured/tenure-track faculty. All members of the faculty hold the Ph.D. degree from Carnegie Doctoral Research Extensive universities. Two members of the faculty hold both the J.D. degree and the Ph.D. degree. Eight of the twelve members of the faculty hold the Ph.D. from an Association of American Universities (AAU) member institution.

In addition, the department's faculty are among the most productive in the nation. Each member of the faculty published at least one peer-reviewed article in a major journal in the field last year. One faculty member (Alpert) recently published a book with Cambridge University Press while five of the faculty members (Alpert, Brame, Kaminski, Koons-Witt, and Kurlychek) have published articles in the American Society of Criminology's official journal, Criminology since 2002. Other faculty members have regularly published in equally prominent peer-reviewed outlets in the field including Criminology and Public Policy, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Justice

Quarterly, Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, and several discipline-relevant law journals (Alpert, Burrow, Kaukinen, Lattimore, and Smith). Members of the faculty serve on the editorial boards of four of the field's leading journals: Criminology, Justice Quarterly, the Journal of Quantitative Criminology, and Crime and Delinquency and regularly serve on peer review committees for research grant proposals with the National Institute of Justice. Finally, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of criminology and criminal justice, several of the faculty members have reached across disciplinary boundaries to publish their research in prominent outlets in sociology (Social Forces, Sociological Methods and Research, Journal of Marriage and Family), psychology (Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, Developmental Psychology), decision sciences, and operations research (Mathematical and Computer Modeling, Operations Research, IEEE Transactions, and Decision Support Systems).

The breadth and volume of research productivity on the current faculty compares favorably with that of any criminology department in the United States. This represents a major shift in the composition and activities of the department's faculty in a short period of time. The department's top priority has been to recruit and retain excellent scholars and educators and, by all indications, that effort has been successful. However, much of this recruitment has been premised on the assumption that a Ph.D. program will be implemented in the department. As such, a Ph.D. program will be necessary to maintain what has already been accomplished (retention) and to build on this success (future recruitment) in the years ahead.

Goal 3: The College of Arts and Sciences develops the next generation of intellectual leadership through its excellent graduate programs in the arts, humanities, mathematics and the social, physical and biological sciences. The primary mission of the Ph.D. program is to develop a new generation of leaders within the profession whose research can provide the answers to critical social and human problems. As essential part of that task is developing research projects that engage students and faculty in the frontiers of knowledge in the discipline. An essential part of this process is obtaining extramural funding opportunities to support research on criminology and criminal justice issues. Because of the redirection of the program and the effort to recruit nationally competitive young faculty, a majority of the department's twelve faculty members are junior faculty, and it is sometimes difficult for younger faculty in this field to obtain extramural funding. To address this issue, senior faculty in the department are consistently encouraged to work closely with junior faculty to develop grant proposals. This effort, along with the presence of Ph.D. students will help position the department to better compete for extramural funding in the future. Grant proposals to funding agencies are on a stronger footing when they are developed from Ph.D. programs at major research universities. Funding agencies and grant proposal reviewers understand that these programs have the resources and the personnel stability to support costly long-term research projects. Grant applicants from programs without this support have to explain how they will carry out their research without the support of doctoral students and the research infrastructure that a Ph.D. program provides. In order to retain the excellent

faculty that have been recruited to this department, it will be necessary to equip them with the tools to accomplish their research goals. In sum, the development of a Ph.D. program will be critical in the department's effort to successfully compete at the national level for extramural research grants in the years ahead.

Despite the short history of the department and the youth of the faculty, several grant proposals have been fielded in the past year. In addition, the Center for the Management of Risk Behaviors is charged with the specific responsibility of developing and submitting competitive proposals for grants to support research on crime, crime policy, and other related topics. Indeed, through the efforts of the new Center, the department was awarded a major research grant from the National Institute of Justice to study the effects of intensive enforcement of protective orders in criminal domestic violence cases in September 2004. In keeping with the department's emphasis in the use of experimental methods, this project employs random assignment to help draw causal inferences regarding treatment effects.

The Center also houses small grants to support graduate students in the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, the Columbia Police Department, and the Richland County Sheriff's Department. As faculty become settled into their positions at the University and begin to work closely with state and regional criminal justice and social service agencies, the department will ramp up its efforts to acquire extramural research funds. In other words, this disadvantage should diminish with the passage of time.

D. Relationship between Proposed Program and Other Programs Within the Institution

The criminology and criminal justice department occupies an important position in the University of South Carolina community. The undergraduate program serves a large number of students who are considering careers in law enforcement, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice, as well as students seeking more knowledge about social and human problems. The graduate program at the University of South Carolina serves professionals currently employed in the criminal justice system who wish to learn about the latest research on the causes of crime and the operation of the criminal justice system; as well as graduate students who wish to pursue post-Master's level training in the study of criminology and criminal justice or law. Since the department transitioned to the M.A. program two years ago the department has focused on training those who will provide leadership in research and policy within the academic and criminal justice professions.

The curriculum in this degree program will also attract doctoral students from other social sciences, philosophy, law, social work, and public health who wish to take courses in specific crime-related topic areas or methodological issues in which the department's faculty have specific expertise. In addition, doctoral students within the department will enroll in courses taught in other allied disciplines that deal with criminology, criminal justice, and justice-related topics. In sum, the criminology and

criminal justice program offers a well-defined and specialized social science curriculum that complements but does not duplicate course offerings in other programs at the University of South Carolina. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of criminology and criminal justice, faculty will be regularly engaged in collaboration with faculty from allied disciplines, just as students within and outside the program will collaborate in courses from a variety of disciplines.

E. Comparison of the University of South Carolina Program with Other Programs in the State, Region, and Nation

According to the Inventory Crosswalk of Classification of Institutional Programs (CHE 1601P), there are no other programs in the state that offer graduate degrees in criminology and/or criminal justice. There are no doctoral programs in criminology and/or criminal justice in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia. There are three doctoral programs in Florida (Florida State University, University of Florida, and the University of South Florida) and there is one doctoral program in Maryland (University of Maryland). Nationally, criminology and/or criminal justice programs are available at a number of major state and private institutions (e.g. Michigan State University, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, the Pennsylvania State University, University of California at Irvine, University of Toronto, University of Maryland, University of Florida, Indiana University, and University of Pennsylvania) and programs are available at two of the University of South Carolina's aspirant peer institutions (University of Cincinnati, University of Illinois – Chicago).

To date, the primary difference between the USC program and the above named programs is the size of the faculty. With twelve faculty lines, the USC Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty is currently a bit smaller than many other established Ph.D. programs in the field. Leading programs in the field of criminology and/or criminal justice with institutional arrangements similar to those at the University of South Carolina include the following: Michigan State University (20 faculty), Indiana University (17 faculty), Florida State University (15 faculty), University of Maryland (15 faculty), University of Cincinnati (14 faculty), University of South Florida (13 faculty), University of Illinois – Chicago (12 faculty). The strength of graduate programs in allied areas, such as the Departments of Psychology, Sociology, and Statistics, as well as the Schools of Law and Public Health, should allow us to offer a breadth of courses to our students with a relatively small faculty. As the program evolves, we hope this difference will be reduced with gradual departmental growth.

The University of South Carolina program will be similar in structure to the degree programs at these other institutions. In general, these programs segment their graduate offerings into two distinct components: master's level and doctoral level. Admission to the doctoral program is based on the graduate admissions committee's assessment of the student's preparation at the undergraduate and master's level, verbal and quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Examination, and other relevant professional experience. The program will be similar to other programs in the number of

post-master's degree credit hours required for the doctoral degree, the use of comprehensive examinations to test knowledge of core material, and a dissertation demonstrating students' ability to conduct original research on a topic that advances knowledge in the field of criminology and/or criminal justice.

Like the programs mentioned above, the USC doctoral program will be firmly seated in a research-oriented department. The faculty will rely on graduate students for support in conducting their research and, in turn, graduate students will learn the skills and practices that are necessary for conducting research on their own. The academic program will prepare students with formal training in theory, policy, and research methodology, but involvement in actual research projects will help them put their training into practice so they are ready to contribute to the field when they graduate. Because of their involvement in undergraduate teaching, these students also will be prepared as teachers to work effectively as faculty members at South Carolina and other states' colleges and universities.

III. Enrollment

A. Admissions Criteria

Admission to the criminology and criminal justice doctoral program will be based on the department's graduate committee's assessment of each applicant's preparation for advanced graduate study. The assessment will be based upon several criteria: (1) undergraduate academic record; (2) graduate academic record; (3) Graduate Record Examination score; (4) three letters of recommendation; and (5) a written statement from the applicant describing academic and professional objectives. Students who apply to the USC criminology/criminal justice program from other degree programs either at USC or other universities will be permitted to transfer no more than six hours of credit toward the degree. Admissions criteria will apply to both new and transfer students. Occasionally, highly qualified students may be admitted into the Ph.D. program with only a bachelor's degree. These students will be required to take an additional 24 hours of master's level course work to complete the Ph.D. degree. Admitting highly qualified B.A./B.S. students into the Ph.D. program is consistent with the practices of peer and peer-aspirant institutions that offer the Ph.D. in criminology or criminal justice.

B. Total Student Enrollment

Because of the size and research engagement of the faculty, the department plans to enroll a relatively small number of students each year for the first five years of the program. The table below shows the projected enrollments.

Projected Total and New Enrollment (Fall 2008-Spring 2013)

Academic Year	Fall		Spring		Summer	
	H/C	Hrs	H/C	Hrs	H/C	Hrs
2008-09	6	54	6	54	3	9
2009-10	12	96	12	96	6	18
2010-11	18	162	18	162	9	27
2011-12	18	162	18	162	9	27
2012-13	18	162	18	162	9	27

Note: H/C = Headcount

C. Assumptions Underlying Enrollment Projection

The department assumes that 6 new students will be admitted to the program during the first year and 6 new students will be admitted each year thereafter. The program should take full-time students (9 hrs per semester) about three years to complete. This implies that the steady state size of the program will be 18 students.

D. Foreign Language and/or Research Methods

The foreign language requirement established by the Graduate School can be satisfied either by passing a reading proficiency examination in one of the foreign language areas or by completing the research methods sequence (CRJU 706 and CRJU 814, as well as CRJU 816 or CRJU 817) with a grade of B or higher in each course. English is accepted as satisfying this requirement for those students whose native language is not English.

E. Residency Requirement

In order for students to take full advantage of the resources of the university community, doctoral residency is established by enrolling in a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours over the course of three consecutive semesters (excluding summers). While not necessary to satisfy the residency requirement, any graduate credit hours taken during summer terms (including May session) will count toward the 18 graduate hours needed for residency.

IV. Curriculum

A. Curriculum

The degree program will be comprised of four main requirements: (1) satisfactory performance in academic coursework; (2) successful completion of a qualifying examination; (3) satisfactory performance on a written and oral comprehensive examination; and (4) successful defense of a doctoral dissertation. For an incoming student with a master's or law degree, the Ph.D. degree will require a minimum of 36 credit hours (beyond the M.A/M.S./J.D.), including 24 hours of course work and 12 hours of dissertation preparation. For a student with a B.A. or B.S. degree, the Ph.D. degree will require 48 hours of course work plus 12 hours of dissertation preparation. The degree requirements will include:

1. Core Courses (15 hours): (a) CRJU 706 Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Criminology and Criminal Justice; (b) CRJU 810 Crime, Law and Public Policy; (c) CRJU 814 Research Design in Criminology and Criminal Justice; (d) CRJU 821 Advanced Criminological Theory; and either (e) CRJU 816 Applied Quantitative Data Analysis or (f) CRJU 817 Qualitative Research Methods and Data Analysis. Each of these courses, or their approved equivalents from other academic units within the university, must be completed with a grade of B or better, and transfer credits may not be used to satisfy core course requirements. Core courses may not be audited.

2. Elective Courses (9 hours): All courses must be at the 700 level or above and at least one, but no more than two courses, should be taken from outside the department. Electives may be audited but a course cannot be audited and then taken for credit.

3. Qualifying Examination: All students admitted to the Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice must successfully complete a qualifying examination prior to formal admission to candidacy.

4. Comprehensive Examination: A written and oral comprehensive exam will be required after the completion of all course work. Students will be examined on their knowledge of research methods and design, data analysis, law and policy issues related to criminology and criminal justice, and their understanding of important issues related to criminological theory. During this exam, students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the logic and interpretation of research. If a student fails either examination, the student will be permitted to retake it one time.

5. Dissertation Preparation and Defense (12 hours): The student must conduct an original research project that advances scientific knowledge in the chosen area. The dissertation must be orally defended before the student's dissertation examining committee. The oral defense before the examining committee cannot take place until after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

6. Program Progress: Students who obtain more than two grades below “B” in their final 24 hours of graduate coursework will not be permitted to continue in the program. No course may be repeated more than one time.

B. Catalog Description of New Courses

CRJU 810 Crime, Law and Public Policy (3). The study of the legal and policy-making processes as they apply to criminology and criminal justice. Examines the interrelationships between law, crime, and public policy and the research methodologies appropriate for the study of crime-related policies in society.

CRJU 814 Research Design in Criminology and Criminal Justice (3). Intensive coverage of the logic and practice of research design and measurement issues commonly encountered in criminology and criminal justice research. Emphasizes the use of experimental research designs as the preferred methodology for making causal inferences.

CRJU 816 Applied Quantitative Data Analysis (3). Review of applied quantitative methodological literature in criminology and criminal justice. Topics include the analysis of data from randomized field experiments, interrupted time-series studies, regression discontinuity studies, instrumental variable estimation, treatment probability matching estimators, statistical power analysis, and study planning.

CRJU 817 Qualitative Research Methods and Data Analysis (3). Examination of the qualitative research paradigm and its contribution to social inquiry, including the collection, organization, and analysis of qualitative data. Collection and analytic strategies involving interviewing, observation, and textual analysis.

CRJU 821 Advanced Criminological Theory (3). Advanced coverage of theoretical developments and empirical research in criminology, with a focus on definitive statements from important theoretical traditions, empirical tests of criminological theories, and the translation of theory into policy.

CRJU 899 Dissertation Preparation (1-12). Dissertation Preparation.

C. Rank and Academic Qualifications of Faculty

The department currently staffs twelve tenured/tenure-track faculty. The faculty is comprised of two full professors, three associate professors, and seven assistant professors. As mentioned previously, two of the assistant professors will be considered for tenure and promotion in AY 2006-2007. As shown in the table below, all faculty hold the Ph.D. degree and two hold the J.D. degree as well. All faculty are research-active and regularly publish in leading criminology, criminal justice, and law-related journals. Two faculty members have taught at institutions that grant the Ph.D. degree in criminology or

criminal justice and three faculty members have experience working with doctoral students.

List Staff by Rank	Highest Degree Earned	Field of Study	Teaching in Field (Yes/No)
Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Law Enforcement)	Yes
Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Program Evaluation)	Yes
Assoc. Prof.	J.D., Ph.D.	CCJ (Law, Law Enforcement)	Yes
Assoc. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Juvenile Justice)	Yes
Assoc. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Corrections, Gender)	Yes
Asst. Prof.	J.D., Ph.D.	CCJ (Law, Juvenile Justice)	Yes
Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Law Enforcement)	Yes
Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Victimization)	Yes
Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Sentencing)	Yes
Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	CCJ (Org. behavior, Gangs)	Yes
Vacancy	Ph.D.	CCJ	Yes
Vacancy	Ph.D.	CCJ	Yes

D. New Faculty Appointments:

The department is currently recruiting two replacements. Beyond replacements, no new faculty members are required to offer the Ph.D. degree.

E. Proposed Changes in Assignment: The size of the MA program has been adjusted so that additional changes of assignment will not have to be made.

F. Faculty Development

The department supports the efforts of faculty to achieve the University's mission. All of the tenured and tenure-track faculty play an important role in the department's graduate program through course instruction and advisement on master's theses and independent studies. The faculty also contributes to the strength of the graduate program through their research efforts. The department supports these efforts by providing faculty with a set of obligations that balance time constraints for teaching and service with those required for research. In addition, as resources permit, the department provides: (1) funds for faculty to travel to conferences and meetings to present research and participate in professional activities; (2) institutional support for the submission of competitive research grant proposals; and (3) supporting infrastructure for faculty who are conducting research.

G. Institutional Full-Time Equivalents

The institution regards a full-time, nine-month tenure-track or tenured faculty member as a single FTE. Because our faculty is heavily engaged in research, most professors teach two regular classroom courses a semester, along with supervising graduate students and conducting their own research and service activities. The department currently offers seven graduate courses per academic year (four in fall semester and three in spring semester). With 12 full-time faculty, the current graduate program is, therefore, using approximately 3.5 FTE per academic year. The department anticipates that at least an additional eight regular graduate courses will be offered each year when the Ph.D. program is fully operational. Thus, the graduate program with a Ph.D. degree offering will produce an FTE of 7.5 per year by year three. With Ph.D. students expected to teach certain undergraduate courses in the department, a broader range of undergraduate and graduate courses will be taught by the department.

H. Unit Administration/Faculty/Staff/Support

Administration (Chair)

Academic Year	New		Existing		Total	
	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE
2008-2009	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	1.0
2009-2010	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	1.0
2010-2011	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	1.0
2011-2012	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	1.0
2012-2013	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	1.0

Faculty

Academic Year	New		Existing		Total	
	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE
2008-2009	0	0.0	12	3.5	12	3.5
2009-2010	0	0.0	12	3.5	12	3.5
2010-2011	0	0.0	12	3.5	12	3.5
2011-2012	0	0.0	12	3.5	12	3.5
2012-2013	0	0.0	12	3.5	12	3.5

Staff						
Academic Year	New		Existing		Total	
	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE
2008-2009	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.5
2009-2010	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.5
2010-2011	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.5
2011-2012	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.5
2012-2013	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.5

I. Linkages with Other Academic Units

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice recognizes the strengths of other departments within the College of Arts and Sciences as well as those from outside the College. In fact, our undergraduate curriculum includes cross-listed classes with the Sociology Department and has a strong cooperative arrangement with the Department of Geography. It is our plan to work with these and other departments, including the departments of Psychology, Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology, Mathematics, and the School of Law, to determine which graduate courses offered by these units are appropriate for our Ph.D. students.

Once we have determined the specific courses that relate to our criminology and criminal justice curriculum, we will form collaborative agreements with the appropriate departments or schools and develop a list of approved courses that our students may take in partial fulfillment of their degree requirements. As part of these collaborative agreements, we anticipate opening up some of our Ph.D. seminars to students from other academic units. One intended consequence of having our students take courses in other departments or schools is to reduce the reliance on our own faculty for core and elective classes.

Once the approved course list is in place, we will advise all of our students to take one or more courses outside of our department. Courses taken in other departments will provide our students with the opportunity to learn from scholars who are looking at similar issues from a different perspective and will provide an opportunity to work with a potential outside member of a dissertation committee. This opportunity also will provide our students contact with Ph.D.- level students from other disciplines.

V. Physical Plant

The existing physical plant is adequate for the needs of the program. No modifications are anticipated.

VI. Equipment

Existing equipment is sufficient for the needs of the program during the first year. In years two and three, new computer equipment will be needed to support the additional Ph.D.-level graduate assistants.

VII. Library Resources

The campus library currently subscribes to all of the major peer-reviewed journals in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Other holdings such as appropriate government reference documents, legal materials, books, and monographs are adequate. No additional subscriptions or acquisitions are anticipated.

Research in criminology and criminal justice is increasingly based on data collection and analysis and is supported by a core group of subject journals along with a series of related subject area journals. Cooper library currently subscribes to all eight of the core journals that support such disciplinary research as well as 38 other related journals and seven standing orders for serial titles related directly to criminal justice. The library provides online access to a total of 95 journals with varying holdings depending on the provider. The book collection lists 9043 titles directly related to criminology and/or criminal justice. In addition to these holdings, the University's Law School Library has comprehensive holdings of legal materials vital to the study of criminology and criminal justice and these materials are available to students in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. Thomas Cooper Library is a regional depository for federal documents including the US Justice Department whose reports are available to faculty and students (letter from Gary D. Geer, Thomas Cooper Library, 11/17/06).

Materials not currently held are available to students and faculty through interlibrary loan. There is a large reference collection to support the study of criminology and criminal justice including such resources as *Criminal Justice Abstracts* and *Historical Statistics of the United States*.

Thomas Cooper Library provides an annual allocation for faculty to submit requests for books and journals. The library also has purchase plans that provide new scholarly books from university and scholarly publishers.

Concerning available library resources, Gary D. Geer, Collection Development Librarian for the Thomas Cooper Library states, "The services and collections of the

University Libraries and the School of Law Library provide excellent support for the current levels of research and teaching of criminology at USC. Given the parameters of the Ph.D. program as defined in the draft document, the library will continue to strongly support the department's efforts without the substantial investment of new funds" (letter dated 11/17/06).

VIII. Accreditation, Approval, Licensure, or Certification: Not applicable.

IX. New Costs to the Institution and Sources of Financing

The only new costs associated with the program are the addition of ten Ph.D.-level graduate assistantships and \$10,000 in computer equipment to support them. Each assistantship will pay a \$12,000 academic year stipend and provide a full tuition waiver (approximate annual cost \$8,000), resulting in an annual cost of approximately \$20,000 per assistantship. During the first year of the program, the department anticipates three assistantship awards. In the second year, the department anticipates six total awards. In years three through five, 10 assistantships would be awarded annually. The total five-year cost of these new Ph.D. assistantships will be \$780,000. However, for AY 2007-2008, the College of Arts and Sciences will fund eight M.A. assistantships in the department at an annual cost of \$151,440 (stipend and tuition abatement). With the addition of a Ph.D. program, the department expects to convert all of these M.A. assistantship dollars to Ph.D. assistantships by year two, thus creating an offset to the costs of the new Ph.D. assistantships. In the first year of the new Ph.D. program, the department will be allocated the difference between the cost of the new Ph.D. assistantships (\$60,000) and the current level of M.A. funding (\$151,440), which will allow the department to phase out funding for enrolled M.A. students. After the first year of the Ph.D. program, the M.A. program will continue in existence as before, but the department will no longer provide M.A. assistantships out of university funds.

Instead, by year two of the Ph.D. program, all university-funded assistantships will be reserved for Ph.D. students. Furthermore, all of the funded Ph.D. students will teach undergraduate courses in the department. Because the number of undergraduate courses taught by Ph.D. students (6 in year one, 12 in year two, 20 in years 3-5) will exceed the number of Ph.D.-level courses to be offered each year (4 in year one, 6 in year two, and 8 in years 3-5), the Ph.D. students on assistantships will actually replace current adjuncts as instructors in two undergraduate courses during year one, six courses during year two, and 12 courses during years three through five. By using department trained and supervised graduate teaching assistants instead of adjuncts, the undergraduate teaching program will have much greater accountability. At approximately \$3,000 per adjunct-led course, this plan will result in a cost savings of \$132,000 in adjunct salaries over five years, which also acts as an offset to the new Ph.D. assistantships.

ESTIMATED COSTS BY YEAR						
CATEGORY	1st AY 2008-09	2nd AY 2009-10	3rd AY 2010-11	4th AY 2011-12	5th AY 2012-13	TOTALS
Program Administration						
Faculty Salaries						
Graduate Assistants	60,000 Ph.D. 91,440 M.A.	120,000 Ph.D.	200,000 Ph.D.	200,000 Ph.D.	200,000 Ph.D.	\$871,440
Clerical/Support Personnel						
Supplies and Materials						
Library Resources						
Equipment		5,000	5,000			\$10,000
Facilities						
Other (Identify)						
TOTAL NET COSTS	151,440	125,000	205,000	200,000	200,000	\$881,440

SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
Estimated FTE Revenue Generated from the State (See note on page 25.)						
Tuition Funding (New students only)	48,070	86,310	144,260	144,261	144,261	567,162
Other State Funding (Legislative Approp.)						
Reallocation of Existing Funds	151,440	125,000	205,000	200,000	200,000	\$881,440
Federal Funding						
Other Funding (Endowment, Auxiliary etc.)						
TOTALS	199,510	211,310	349,260	344,261	344,261	1,448,602

* Specify source(s) (e.g., Special Item Appropriation, Auxiliary Enterprise Funds, Endowment Income, special grant or contract, etc.)

Because of the projected offsets in M.A. assistantships and adjunct salaries, the proposed Ph.D. program will actually save the College of Arts and Sciences \$7,760 over five years.¹ Moreover, the annual cost of the program after year five is a modest \$12,560 per year above current funding levels when adjunct savings are taken into account. Overall, the benefits of a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina far outweigh the costs associated with the new program.

X. Institutional Approval

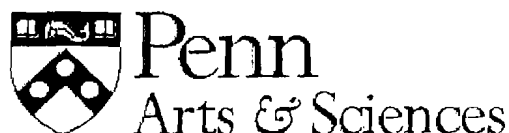
A. Approval of Graduate Council

B. Provost

C. Board of Trustees

¹ \$871,440 (Ph.D./M.A. assistantships) + \$10,000 (computer equipment) - \$757,200 (current M.A. assistantship funding) - \$132,000 (adjunct salary savings) = \$-7,760

manuscript
Review of 3/21/05



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EXTERNAL REVIEW

Proposed Ph.D. Program in Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina

By
Lawrence W. Sherman
March 28, 2005

Introduction

A. *The Review Process*

I conducted a visit to the University of South Carolina's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on January 31-February 1, 2005. Before the visit, I had reviewed all of the 33 doctoral programs in criminology and criminal justice in the US as a member of two advisory panels for *U.S. News and World Report*: one consisting of a group of former and elected Presidents of the American Society of Criminology on the decision to initiate rankings of these doctoral programs in the 2006 edition of *America's Best Graduate Schools*, and the other as one of the 132 peer reviewers for the ranking process.

In preparation for the visit I read the curricula vitae of the faculty, the Department's strategic plans (2001-2004), the Department's *Guide for Graduate Students, Procedures and Criteria for Tenure & Promotion*, recent enrollment data, and the *New Program Proposal* for a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Because I have known some members of the faculty and their work for many years, I had substantial advance knowledge of the Department's capacity to undertake the proposed Ph.D. program. During my visit I met with all but one of the faculty members, generally in small groups. I also met with President Andrew Sorenson, Provost Mark Becker, and Graduate School Dean Christine Ebert and her colleagues. I was unfortunately unable to schedule a visit at a time when College of Liberal Arts Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick was in town, but I did have extensive discussions with CLA Associate Dean Thorne Compton. Although it was brief, my visit was very productive, with many candid discussions of the enormous possibilities for a doctoral program and some very enjoyable discussions of current research in progress. I thank Department Chair Geoffrey Alpert and the entire faculty for their time and hospitality.

B. The Broader Context

Doctoral education in criminology is rapidly expanding, along with the intellectual, empirical and methodological content being taught in doctoral programs. The 2006 US News guide (Butler, 2005) reports that there are now 33 doctoral programs in criminology and criminal justice, up from 13 in 1990. Even this growth cannot keep pace with the demand from rising undergraduate enrollments: for every Ph.D. graduate each year in the field there are 1.3 college and university tenure-track faculty position advertisements, according to Todd Clear, President of the American Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (quoted in Butler, 2005 at 80). The Institute for Scientific Information now indexes citations in 40 English language journals in criminology and criminal justice, and Science Magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science published 32 reports on research about crime in 1990-2003. Thus there is increasing subject matter of substantial technical complexity to teach to an increasing number of interested students. It is not surprising that US News decided in 2004, for the first time ever, to include criminology among the (only) 14 arts and sciences Ph.D. program fields for which they publish rankings.

Criminology also represents the new era of multidisciplinary disciplines, focused on the phenomenon to be explained rather than on a single explanatory framework. This much it has in common with advances in biological and other basic sciences. At the same time, criminology is an inventive and problem-solving field closely linked to clinical and community practice—one that increasingly employs tools and partnerships analogous to those of public health and medicine. It is a remarkable hybrid of clinical practice, community-wide interventions, and basic science that enriches the liberal arts tradition with its visible utility. With crime and its consequences consuming an estimated 10% of Gross Domestic Product *prior to 9-11-2001* (and probably more since then), the subject matter of criminology approaches the 15% of GDP associated with health care (Anderson, 1999).

Health care is also a better way to think about the requirements for a good Ph.D. program than the more office-based social sciences such as economics, sociology and political science. The strong epidemiological and treatment traditions in criminology date back to the invention of the police in London by Magistrate and criminologist (and novelist author of *Tom Jones*) Henry Fielding after a crime wave of robbery-murders in 1753 (University of Virginia on-line). The mapping of cholera in 1840s London by John Snow anticipated the current intensive focus on geographic crime analysis in both policing and corrections, the subject of new programs at both Penn and SUNY-Albany (Butler, 2005). The primacy of randomized controlled trials in medical effectiveness and safety studies evident in FDA policies and in the Cochrane Collaboration's over one thousand systematic reviews of medical interventions (www.cochrane.org) has directly fostered the systematic reviews of clinical trials of crime prevention and treatment strategies by the Campbell Collaboration's Crime and Justice Group (<http://www.aic.gov.au/campbellicj/>).

The growth of problem-solving knowledge in criminology is the focus of increasing demands for guidance by local, state, and national governments, with growing employment opportunities for Ph.D.s both in and out of academia. Most state prison agencies now have research units headed by Ph.D.s.; federal law enforcement and security agencies seek Ph.D.-level analysts; attorneys retain criminologists as experts in matters of criminal sentencing, crime prevention liability, police and prison practices, jury selection and many other matters. There is clearly an under-supply of well-trained Ph.D.s to review and articulate the knowledge already developed in the field, let alone enough to conduct all the research—especially field experiments—that is so urgently needed to help guide public policy.

It is therefore important not only that the field increase its production of doctorates, but that it focus its growth on training more experimental criminologists, in particular, to serve each state, the nation, and other nations. The University of Pennsylvania, for example, has become the leading supplier of randomized controlled trials for the British police, courts and prisons—simply because there is no extant supply of experimental criminologists in the UK to perform the work desired by the government. The advent of the new JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL CRIMINOLOGY,¹ sponsored by the seven-year-old Academy of Experimental Criminology (<http://www.crim.upenn.edu/aec/>), will provide increasing visibility for experimental work by both senior and junior faculty. These institutions also provide a platform for any university that chooses to make a name for itself in a new, rapidly growing, and highly sophisticated branch of criminology.

C. General Assessment

The University of South Carolina is ready to make criminology yet another “Index to the ambitions and fortunes of the State” by moving its excellent Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice into the ranks of doctoral programs in the field. USC has a strong faculty that is more than ready to offer a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice. There is an active research program providing opportunities for doctoral students to serve as apprentices. There is a set of established partnerships with local agencies that provide many opportunities for field research. Most important, there is a strong background in experimental criminology spread across the faculty that will allow it to develop a niche capacity in this rapidly growing field. That, in turn, will allow South Carolina to attract some of the best graduate students in the world, since there would be nowhere else a student could go to be guaranteed robust training by a diverse mix of faculty learned in experimental work. In response to Provost Becker’s key question to me, the two threshold criteria for a PhD program are clearly answered satisfactorily: there is more than enough faculty quality and capacity for a good doctoral program, and there would be substantial market demand for PhD graduates of USC in this field. All of this can happen through a general strategy of “excellence in outreach” using good research to help people who need help.

1

<http://www.springerlink.com/app/home/journal.asp?wasp=16bf00563d624f1d97a0b10fe2c8b666&referrer=parent&backto=linkingpublicationresults,1:111865,1>

Part One: Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses

A. Faculty.

The faculty of this department is strong in two distinct respects. It is strong *individually*, with a large proportion of staff publishing in the leading journals of the field. It is also strong *collectively*, with co-authoring and collaborating in funded research projects in a close-linked intellectual community. This culture of frequent interaction and mutual support bodes well for the integration of doctoral students into the same culture, in which faculty values and commitment are predominant. This is the ideal setting for doctoral work, as distinct from the more common pattern of doctoral students vastly outnumbering faculty members. As long as all faculty members remain engaged in teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as collaborating in research, the collective strength of the faculty will help to assure its growing individual strength.

The Department's capacity for both collaboration in general and experimentation in particular, begins with its leadership by Geoff Alpert. His extensive publication in both leading journals and governmental reports shows collaboration with a wide range of scholars and practitioners. His experimental test of stress situation role-play training for the Metro-Dade Police Department in the 1980s was a bold initiative in randomized controlled trials. His judgment in recruiting and retaining faculty at USC who share his capacity to make partnerships with agencies, obtain research funding, and collaborate with other researchers has fostered the unique opportunity the department provides to advance the field.

Pamela Lattimore is a prime example of the kind of faculty Geoff Alpert has recruited. One of the leading evaluators of correctional programs in the nation, Dr. Lattimore is currently a co-principal investigator of the largest national program ever undertaken to evaluate innovations in supporting prison inmates returning home to their communities. At least one of these projects (in Ohio) is a randomized field experiment, with excellent prospects for influencing the methods as well as the substance of future corrections research. She has also conducted an experiment in vocational training, one of the most promising approaches to rehabilitation of criminals.

Robert Brame's distinguished record of analytic and life-course criminology may soon be surpassed by his contributions to experimental work as well. Not only has he worked on quasi-experimental evaluations of boot camps and other corrections programs with the top researchers in the field, he was a primary analyst of the most interesting exploration of the Milwaukee domestic violence arrest experiment. His new experimental test in domestic violence restraining orders (with his colleagues Catherine Kaukinen and Pamela Lattimore) promises to be the best and most influential evaluation of no-contact orders—the enforcement of which was presented in oral argument before the United States Supreme Court just last week.

J. Mitchell Miller is another tenured faculty member with a background in program evaluation who could offer important contributions to a new PhD program emphasizing experimental criminology. His extensive outreach networks of partnerships in the region would open many doors for the possibility of controlled trials.

Michael R. Smith's track record as both a police scholar and as Graduate Program Director is another asset for a field-oriented Ph.D. His evaluation work in Richmond, Spokane, Metro-Dade and elsewhere provides yet another basis for training doctoral students in establishing such relationships, as well as data collection, analysis and reporting.

The junior faculty members are all clearly qualified to supervise PhD dissertations and provide mentorship to future independent scholars. Their track record for sole-authored and senior-authored publication in leading journals is impressive: Apel, Kaminiski, Koons-Witt and Kurlychek have all published recently in *CRIMINOLOGY*, the top journal in the discipline. Kaukinen has published in *JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN CRIME AND DELINQUENCY* and *JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY*, both top journals. All are productive and appear to be intellectually engaged with their colleagues. With their many research projects and grants under way, this high level of performance seems likely to continue. At the same time, almost all the junior faculty are well trained statistically and primed in other ways to make a great success of training doctoral students in experimental methods.

B. Subfields

Whether or not the Department chooses to emphasize experimental methods, the faculty is well-placed to offer the standard coverage of a doctoral program in criminology and criminal justice. Even without a single elective or requirement taken outside the Department, the faculty can offer doctoral-level instruction in criminological theory, criminal justice practices, research methods and statistics, Constitutional and criminal law, and policy analysis. Within the core area of criminal justice, the faculty offers expertise in policing, prosecution, and corrections, the three major areas of employment and decision-making. This wide substantive coverage is complemented by a range of methodological expertise, from panel research to laboratory experiments to meta-analysis.

C. Research Partnerships

It can take years to establish strong partnerships between academic institutions and regional institutions of justice. USC has done just that over the past three decades, successfully managing the question of what distinctive contributions to public safety and justice can be made by each side of the partnership. With the move away from the professional Master's emphasis to more sophisticated research as the focus for these partnerships, USC is now primed to more closely mirror clinical research in medicine. Federally funded, highly rigorous, theoretically guided and publication-focused field tests of innovative programs can become the hallmark of USC Criminology. Operating agencies can take as much pride in producing nationally-cited publications as the USC

faculty, at the same time that the entire enterprise contributes to safer homes and streets in South Carolina and fairer justice for all.

D. Articulation of MA to PhD

If the doctoral program is approved, the current MA program can become the screening ground for PhD admissions. The performance of MA students will reveal more about their promise and aptitudes than either GREs or grades. Using a wider admission screen on the MA program, while selecting only the best and most committed for the Ph.D. program, should maintain the benefits of the small intellectual community currently found among faculty and (especially) junior faculty. Funding for a relatively small number of graduate fellowships for PhD students should be more than repaid by the indirect cost recovery from federal and state grants that can be obtained with the additional impetus doctoral students provide to faculty productivity.

Part Two: Recommendations

I recommend approval of the proposed doctoral program as quickly as possible. The resources to undertake this new venture are sufficient, with the extra energy it will create leveraging the existing numbers of faculty and staff. As the program succeeds and grows, it should become self-sustaining to the point of a strong return on any investment of additional faculty and graduate fellowship resources in the program. The next US News rankings for criminology will occur in the fall of 2007, by which time USC should be primed to rise immediately to the top half of all programs. The outstanding reputation of its faculty, the high productivity levels in journal articles, the visibility of their work at national and international conferences should all help their success in peer-reviewed ratings of the excellence of the program.

In the latter part of 2005, it is likely that a foreign government will establish a major and prestigious annual prize for scientific criminology that reduces human misery. That prize, likely to be awarded by the nation's prime minister, will honor just the kind of research that USC's Department is currently undertaking. The creation of a PhD program at Columbia, especially one focusing on experimental criminology, would further enhance the strong likelihood that someone at USC will some day win this prize.

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